



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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**NOVEMBER 12, 2002
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FIVE INDICTED FOR COCAINE CONSPIRACY; 11 KILOS DISCOVERED AT NORTHLAND APARTMENT

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that five defendants have been indicted by a federal grand jury for conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

Roger “Rogelio” Salcedo, 22, of Inglewood, California; **Aron Garcia-Martinez**, 30, of Kansas City, Mo.; **Sergio Ramos-Munoz**, 29, of Denver, Colorado; **Luis Fernando Lopez**, 41, of Bronx, New York; and **Jenny Maria Moreno**, 19, of New York, New York; were charged in a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting in Kansas City on November 7, 2002.

Drug Enforcement Administration agents were conducting surveillance on the defendants on October 28, 2002, Graves said, at a Kansas City hotel. Surveillance led agents to Sycamore Hills Apartments at 504 N. W. 55th Terrace in Kansas City, Mo., and to Kelly Crossings apartment complex at 7831 N.W. Roanridge Road in Kansas City, Mo., where the defendants engaged in activity in and around one of the garages. Exiting the garage, Graves said, **Salcedo**, **Lopez** and **Moreno** were stopped by agents. On the floor of the garage, according to the affidavit filed in support of the original criminal complaint charging the defendants, was a brown cardboard box containing 11 one-kilogram bundles of cocaine.

A search warrant was obtained for the apartment at Sycamore Hills, according to the affidavit, where agents found a loaded Spanish-made Llama .32 caliber automatic pistol, cocaine and drug paraphernalia.

Graves explained that the grand jury indictment replaces a federal criminal complaint filed on October 29, 2002.

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COCAINE
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Count One of the federal indictment alleges that the five defendants conspired with each other to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine on October 28, 2002. Count Two of the federal indictment is a criminal forfeiture count, under which **Ramos-Munoz** shall forfeit to the United States all property or proceeds obtained as a result of the violation alleged in Count One and all property used to commit that violation, including a 2002 Ford F-150 truck.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and are not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Heather J. Garretson. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow